

PRESS RELEASE

Take steps now to not be a victim this storm season

Texas Homeowner's Handbook to Prepare for Coastal Natural Hazards now available

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AUSTIN — Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson today urged coastal home owners to take responsibility for their property and prepare for the next storm.

"Texans who own property on the coast need to take steps now to prepare for the inevitable," Patterson said. "A little preparation by homeowners now saves tax dollars in the future when government has to step in and clean up the mess."

To help, the Texas General Land Office presents the Texas Homeowners Handbook to Prepare for Coastal Natural Hazards. The publication is available in both English and Spanish at www.glo.texas.gov/what-we-do/caring-for-the-coast/hurricanes/index.html and was developed in cooperation with the Texas Sea Grant College Program. The book was funded by the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, the Environmental Protection Agency's Gulf of Mexico Program and the Texas Coastal Management Program.

The guide offers hands-on advice on how to protect yourself and your family, how to storm-harden your home, the importance of flood insurance as well as a slew of useful web links and disaster preparation checklists.

"Hurricane season is here, and this new resource will help Texans and their communities be safer and significantly reduce the risks to lives and property," said Pamela Plotkin, Director of the Texas Sea Grant College Program. "We hope that coastal residents will add this handbook to their preparedness toolkit and act now to get ready."

Since the 1900 storm destroyed Galveston, hurricanes have hit the Texas coast 34 times — about one every three years. And Texas leads the nation almost every year in flood-related damage. Hurricane season lasts from June 1 to November 30 and most of the big storms occur from August to October.

"That means that even though the storm season is upon us, there's still time to do what you need to get ready," Patterson said.

To receive a free copy of the book, contact Craig Davis at 512-463-5329 or craig.davis@glo.texas.gov.

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